

GREEN GOODS AND SAWDUST MEN.

Some of Those Who Have Made Big Fortunes in Their Nefarious Business.

One of the things connected with police supervision of the criminal classes in New York, which to the mind of an ordinary citizen is difficult of comprehension, says *The New York Graphic*, is the success which attends the operations of the "green goods" men in this city. The covetous and hunger for the acquisition of wealth by any means, however disreputable, which characterize some men here and there in the back country settlements will easily account for the influx of visitors who come here to seek the means by which they hope to rob their own neighbors. But no clear explanation has ever been given as to the reasons why the men who have grown rich upon the spoils gathered from these dupes escaped from the penalties of the law so long.

They are as well known to the detective force of the Central office and to the various precinct detectives as the burglars and thieves who are under almost continual supervision and from whom are daily drawn the grist that supplies our state penitentiaries. Occasionally we read about the arrest of one of these swindlers, but with Sing Sing gaping for them they still linger almost unmolested along the public thoroughfares.

Half a dozen of them are rich men, and have kept on growing richer to the point of the fact that the source from which they draw their income and their wealth is as well known to the police as it is to themselves. Their faces are not strange ones about the theaters and semi-fashionable cafes, and to the stranger they are in all external types of the well-to-do class.

Take Charles Johnson, for instance. There may be some exaggeration about the figures, but the sporting men who linger on the border-line that runs between legal and illegal practices will tell you, with half envy, that during the past year this man Johnson has cleared nearly \$50,000 in the business. He is a well-built fellow of about 40, neatly dressed, easily educated, and an old hand at the New England family, whose name he dropped long since.

There is Joe Little, who is perhaps one of the least successful of the well-known sharpers in the "green goods" profession. He is a dapper, dandy sort of a fellow, with the very best of the police as it is to themselves. His face is not strange ones about the theaters and semi-fashionable cafes, and to the stranger they are in all external types of the well-to-do class.

But Barry McGuire is the recognized king of the "green goods" men. Years ago he was a forger of checks, and a watchman for John Morrissey's game both here and in Saratoga. No man ever gathered in a stake which he had not fairly won from the green table with his own hands. He is a game, and no dealer ever failed to win under McGuire's eagle eye. All the gamblers in New York know him, and the new ones soon make his acquaintance. Many a luckless and manipulative man has been driven to the wall until luck improved, and there are few sporting men better liked by his associates than this same Barry, big, bluff, rough-looking fellow, who in the last few years, it is said, has made a small fortune of \$100,000 from the proceeds of his illegitimate business.

There are a dozen others less prominently known, but all of them living on the fat of the land.

"How do they manage to make this money and yet escape from the meshes of the law?" said the wondering newspaper man to kindly-faced John Wilkins, who is one of the most reliable and successful among the managers of the big detective agencies in this city.

"Oh, easy enough as the law now stands," replied Mr. Wilkins. "If you are a prominent man, you are never at the front in any of these sawdust transactions. Each of them is the leader of a gang of operators, for the business needs a large force of employees. There are the men at the fence and depots to note the coming of grangers, others further up the street ready to get the tip from the waiters, the 'hand-shakers' who claim the stranger's acquaintance, the office people, the outside men, and a whole host of minor rogues who live on this public confidence."

"Of course the small fry make only their pickings and stealings, just as in corner politics and elsewhere, but the leaders grow rich on big and frequent profits."

"Can't the business be suppressed?"

"Well," answered Mr. Wilkins, "as the law stands now the courts find it difficult to send a man to state prison for this kind of swindling, and the sawdust men who fight hard is generally certain of acquittal. And they all do fight hard, and have plenty of money to be expended. The method of these fellows have been exposed time and time again, but the world is full of fools who are willing to believe they can get the best of these swindlers. They go into the attempt with their eyes open, and it costs them hundreds of dollars to learn how easily they have been gulled."

"No Successful Substitute for Justice."

It is somewhat surprising that the agitation in favor of abolishing, by means of just laws, the disgrace of American literary piracy should have been until lately carried on almost exclusively by those supposed to be directly interested; namely, writers and publishers.

Only lately have there been signs that the clergy—the guardians of both private and public morals—take any vital interest in the subject, or that the people at large are aroused to the national dishonor. But the stolen books with which the country is deluged are read by the country. How many among our citizens are alive to the shameful fact that American pirates and the American public have for generations been living on stolen literature? Congress has been blamed for its indifference—but who among us can escape reproach who among us has done his whole duty in attempting to right this gigantic wrong, to wipe out this unendurable national disgrace?

Mr. Lowell, in presiding over the very successful Authors' Meetings in New York last November, addressed to the number of admirable sayings in favor of international copyright. He repeated two most fortunate phrases of his own on this subject—phrases used by him in his notable address to a committee of Congress: "There is one thing better than a cheap book, and that is a book honestly come by." "Our authors are the only workers among us who are forced to compete with men who receive no wages at all."

In the course of his Chickering Hall address, in which the above quotations were again given out, Mr. Lowell said: "To steal a book I have bought is theft; to steal a book I have made—what is that?" In referring to the effect of the absence of international copyright upon the country at large, he put the question, "Whether it be prudent in a nation to allow its literature, or a part of its literature, to be made for it by another nation—in other words, to allowing the shaping of its thought, and therefore its character, to be done by that other?" Big the deepest word of all was this: "I prefer that the argument should rest, not upon interest and expediency, but upon honesty and justice. No successful substitute for justice has ever been discovered—nothing with the quality of justice."

These are golden words, the key note of a great national reform; to take another figure, shafts of light heralding the dawn of a new era of justice, a new era in the literature of the English-speaking race.—*The Century*.

THE BLIZZARD.

Experience of One Who Has Witnessed the Terrible Cloud-Bursts.

The term blizzard is of Western origin and is intended to convey to the understanding the nature of a snow and snowstorm, accompanied by an intensely cold wave, which, for suddenness of approach, violence of onset and appalling consequential horrors can not be adequately expressed by any word known to dictionary makers, writes a correspondent of *The Boston Journal*. To speak of these peculiar storms as snowstorms, in the sense that the term is ordinarily understood, would be misleading. They may be more correctly termed cloud-bursts of what has been aptly called the dust of great extent, violence and long duration, so compact and firm as to be impervious to both sight and hearing, even in their very short range. When it is considered that the ice-dust is frequently driven through the air by an intensely cold wind at a velocity of from thirty to fifty miles an hour, it can easily be imagined how very small are the chances of escape to man, or beast who is unfortunate enough to be caught in a blizzard at any considerable distance from shelter. I will here remark that these terrible storms are always preceded by several days of remarkably warm and pleasant winter weather. It was on the 7th and 8th of January, 1878, that I, having been a resident of Northwestern Minnesota, had a personal experience of a blizzard, which, for severity and disastrous consequences, has had no parallel since until the recent one that swept across the great Northwest, causing such terrible suffering and loss of life to both man and beast. For four or five days preceding the approach of the blizzard referred to, the weather had been unusually agreeable, especially was the forenoon of the day the storm began warm, sunny and delightful, luring men to the lawns for lay, to the "timbers" for fuel or to town for business or pleasure. The wind blew freshly from the south and east till noon, when of a sudden it ceased and was succeeded for a brief period by an ominous calm that could almost be felt. Whoever turned his eyes toward the north-west might have observed a black cloud rapidly approaching without comprehending its frightful significance. It is proverbial among seamen that a nor'easter in winter on the coast of New England always comes "bust and first." In this instance, though far from the Atlantic coast, the old nautical adage was fully and fearfully verified. In less than half an hour after the calm which had lulled the storm, the storm was upon us in all its fury. It is doubtful if a man had been approaching my house at a distance of thirty rods, ten minutes after the storm struck, could have reached it. Being myself warmly housed, abundantly supplied with wood, water and provisions, I suffered nothing except from the consciousness that whoever might be looking for me as he exposed to the terrible pelting of that storm must inevitably perish. I was then living upon a prairie farm four miles from town and a mile or more from my nearest neighbors. As I listened to the howling of the tempest and the rattling of hail, the fury and force of the elements I was inspired with a sense of my inconsequence and the overwhelming majesty of the powers of nature which would attend the coming of the storm. At the end of twenty-four hours the storm subsided, so that the young man living with me was able to climb into the gable end door of my barn and find his stock. It was a day later before they could be watered.

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MINOR MENTION.

New York city receives ten million eggs per week.

Gen. Hermann Kanzer, formerly head of the pontifical army, is dead.

Prof. Virehow, in a new work published at London, declares that cancer is curable.

A 17-year-old girl in Winfield, Kan., has been twice married and twice divorced, and will soon wed a third husband.

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Salvation Oil, the greatest cure on earth for pain, has no equal. Persons suffering from rheumatism, neuralgia, or from cuts, bruises, sprains, etc., should not be without it. Price only twenty-five cents.

"What is the whole duty of a married man?" is the new confessional catechism: To be agreeable to his wife and keep Dr. Hall's Cough Syrup in the house for the children when they get a cold or cough. Ask, you something hard.

In 1887 in Dakota 2,067,281 acres of land were newly filed on; 1,586,072 acres were acquired by final proof and cash entry, and 2,387 acres were purchased by land scrip. There was a large number more land taken a cold after the year's closely approximated 2,067,281 acres, of 4,165 square miles, an area quite four times greater than Rhode Island, about three times that of Delaware, or nearly that contained within the boundaries of Connecticut. The vacant area now open to settlement is stated to contain 23,511,445 acres, of which the Devils Lake district has 1,482,298 acres; Grand Forks district, 80,000; Fargo district, 281,940 acres; Aberdeen district, 262,573 acres, and Watertown district, 112,625 acres.

SINGERS AND LECTURERS.

Prevent your Cold. Keep a few Moxie Lozenges in your pocket. One on the tongue keeps off a cold during exposure, and preserves the voice. They will break a recent cold in twenty-four hours, and not suppress, or leave you more liable to a cold after their use. We have scores of letters from actresses, lecturers, opera singers and clergymen, saying they are just what is wanted in this line of protection, and they are invaluable to keep the voice clear and strong. They are harmless in large quantities.

Moxie Nerve Food Co., Lowell, Mass.

A man who has lived in Minnesota for ten years has just written to the west the country was peopled by reds without a white, but now there are all whites without a red.

"I have been afflicted with an affection of the throat from childhood, caused by phthisis, and have used various remedies, but have never found anything equal to Brown's Ironchill Troches." Rev. G. M. Hampton, Pikeson, Ky. Sold only in boxes.

A good habit for one people to cultivate is a habit of silence. Under some circumstances it is better to be silent in the world by keeping his mouth shut than in any other way.

The newest fashion in ladies' hats will doubtless cause a flutter of pleasurable excitement among the fair sex. Ladies are always susceptible of the charms of a fashion plate, and the more startling the departure, the more earnest the gossip which the new modes will make their lives miserable. This sovereign panacea can be relied upon in cases of displacements and all functional derangements. It builds up the system, restores vitality, and gives the body a new lease of life. It is the only medicine for woman's peculiar weaknesses and ailments, and is sold by all druggists.

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